WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| (51) International Patent Classification ⁴ : C08F 4/64, 4/76, 10/00 C07F 17/00 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 88/ 05793 (43) International Publication Date: 11 August 1988 (11.08.88 | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/US (22) International Filing Date: 27 January 1988 (| Company, P.O. Box 5200, Baytown, TX 77522-5200 | | | | |
| (31) Priority Application Numbers: | 008,8 133,4 | | | | |
| (32) Priority Dates: 30 January 1987 (22 December 1987 (| | Published | | | |
| (33) Priority Country: | t | With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt | | | |
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| (54) Title: CATALYSTS, METHOD OF PREPARI | ING T | ESE CATALYSTS AND METHOD OF USIN | | | |

TALYSTS

(57) Abstract

A catalyst is prepared by combining a first compound consisting of a bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound with a second compound which is an ion exchange compound comprising a cation which will irreversibly react with a ligand on said first component and an anion which is a single coordination complex comprising a plurality of lipophilic radicals covalently coordinated to and shielding a central charge-bearing metal or metalloid atom, which anion is bulky and stable to reactions involving the cation of the second component. Upon combination of the first and second components, the cation of the second component reacts with one of the ligands of the first component, thereby generating an ion pair consisting of a Group IV-B metal cation with a formal coordination number of 3 and a valence of +4 and the aforementioned anion, which anion is compatible with and noncoordinating towards the metal cation formed from the first component. Many of the catalyst thus formed are stable and isolable and may be recovered and stored. The catalysts may be preformed and then used to polymerize olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated compounds either alone or in combination with each other or with monomers or the catalysts may be formed in situ during polymerization by adding the separate components to the polymerization reaction. The catalyst will be formed when the two components are combined in a suitable solvent or diluent at a temperature within the range from about -100°C to about 300°C.

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PCT (US88)00323 CATALYSTS SAID CATALYSTS
OF USING SAID CATALYSTS This & Continuation In Part of W. S. Patent This a continuation-in-Part of U. S. Patent
This a continuation-in-Part of January 30, 1987.

Application serial NO. THE INVENTION

Application of THE INVENTION DOF THE INVENTION relates to compositions of datter premaring 4.0 88 lo2193 This invention relates to a method for preparing these catalysts and these catalysts, to a method of using these catalysts, and the method of using the meth which are useful as a sethod with these catalysts. More these catalysts, to a method for preparing to a method of these catalysts. these catalysts, to a cethod of using these catalysts, compositive these catalysts, compositive these catalysts, to a cethod of these catalysts, compositive these catalysts, to a cethod of these catalysts, compositive these products invention relates to catalysts, compositive these invention relates to catalysts, compositive these polymerical this invention relates to catalysts. polymeric produced produced with these catalysts composition particularly, this of preparing these catalyst composition particularly, to a method of preparing these catalyst composition particularly, to a method of preparing these catalyst compositions. Applation to THE INVENTION OF THE INVENT particularly, this invention relates dioleting and/or particularly, to a method for polymerizing oleting, to a method for polymerizing oleting, to a method for polymerizing oleting. tions, to a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these cataly to a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these catal to a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these catal acceptance is a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these catal acceptance is a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these cataly was a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these cataly was a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these cataly was a method for polymerizing olefins, wherein these cataly was a method of preparing olefins, wherein these catalyst composite. to a method for polymerizing olefing and corolymer products produced and to homopolymer and corolymer products and are used and to homopolymer are ecerylenically unsaturated monomers wherein these catalysts produced and to homopolymer and copolymer products product are used and to homopolymer and copolymer used and to homopolymer and copolymer used and to homopolymer and copolymer products products produced are used and to homopolymer and copolymer products products are used and to homopolymer and copolymer products produced are used and to homopolymer and copolymer products produced are used and to homopolymer and copolymer products are used and to homopolymer are used and to homopolymer and copolymer products are used and to homopolymer are used and the products are used and a catalysta. Soluble liegler. Natta type catalyats in the use of soluble liegler. Natta type catalyats in and use of oleting is. the polymetrization of olefina these soluble systems comprise the prior art. the polymerization of olefina is, of course systems construct the polymerization of olefina is, of course systems cocatalvat.

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dihalide, and an aluminum alkyl ar used as a catalyst or catalyst precursor. The presence of ions, all being in equilibrium, when a titanium compound is us d was also suggested by Dyachkovskii, Vysokomol. Soy d., 1965, Vol. 7, pp. 114-115 and by Dyachkovskii, Shilova and Shilov, J. Polym.Sci., Part C. 1967, pp. 2333-2339. That the active catalyst species is a cation complex when a titanium compound is used, was further suggested by Eisch et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1985, Vol. 107, pp. 7219-7221.

10 While the foregoing articles teach or suggest that the active catalyst species is an ion pair and, particularly an ion pair wherein the Group IV-B metal component is present as a cation or a decomposition product thereof, and while these references teach or suggest coordination chemistry to 15 form such active catalyst species, all of the articles teach the use of a cocatalyst comprising a Lewis acid either to form or to stabilize the active ionic catalyst species. The active catalyst is, apparently, formed through a Lewis acid-Lewis base reaction of two neutral components (the metal-20 locene and the aluminum alkyl), leading to an equilibrium between a neutral, apparently inactive, adduct and an ion pair, presumably the active catalyst. As a result of this equilibrium, there is a competition for the anion which must be present to stabilize the active cation catalyst species. 25 This equilibrium is, of course, reversible and such reversal will deactivate the catalyst. Moreover, the catalyst systems heretofore contemplated are subject to poisoning by the presence of basic impurities in the system. Further, many, if not all, of the Lewis acids heretofore contemplated for 30 use in soluble Ziegler-Natta type catalyst systems are chain transfer agents and, as a result, prevent effective control of the product polymer molecular weight and molecular weight distribution. Still further, the catalyst systems heretofore proposed do not generally facilitate incorporation of a signi-35 ficant amount of a plurality of different monomers or random distribution of such monomers when used in copolymerization processes, particularly a-olefin copolymerization processes. Still even further, most, if not all, of the metal alkyl

cocatalysts heretofor contemplated are highly pyrophoric and, as a result, hazardous to use.

The aforementioned catalyst systems ar not highly active, nor or they generally active wh n zirconium or hafnium 5 is the Group IV-B metal used. Recently, however, it has been found that active Ziegler-Natta type catalysts can be formed when bis(cyclopentadienyl) compounds of the Group IV-B metals, including zirconium and hafnium, are used with alumoxanes. As is well known, these systems, particularly those compris-10 ing zirconium, offer several distinct advantages, including vastly higher activities than the aforementioned bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium catalysts and the production of polymers with narrower molecular weight distributions than those from conventional Ziegler-Natta catalysts. These recently 15 developed catalyst systems still yield polymeric products having relatively low molecular weight, however. Moreover, these recently developed catalyst systems have not affected the amount of comonomer incorporated into a copolymer or the relative distribution of such monomer therein. Further, these 20 systems remain subject to poisoning when basic impurities are present and require an undesirable excess of the alumoxane to function efficiently.

Bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium compounds used with alumoxane cocatalysts have offered few, if any, advantages 25 when compared to analogous bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium or -zirconium catalysts with respect to catalyst activity, polymer molecular weights, or extent or randomness of comonomer incorporation. This has been suggested by Giannetti, Nicoletti, and Mazzochi, J. Polym. Sci., Polym. Chem. 1985, 30 Vol. 23, pp. 2117-2133, who claimed that the ethylene polymerization rates of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium compounds were five to ten times slower than those of similar bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds while there was little difference between the two catalysts in the molecular weight 35 of the polyethylene formed from them. European Patent Application No. 200,351 A2 (1986) suggests that in the copolymerization of ethylene and propylene there is little difference among bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium, -zirconium,

and -hafnium compounds either in polymer mol cular weights and molecular weight distributions or in ability to incorporate propylen randomly. Recently, however, Ewen t-al. disclosed in J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1987, Vol. 109, pp. 6544-6545, that chiral hafnium metallocene compounds used with an alumoxane cocatalyst gave isotactic polypropylene of higher molecular weight than that obtained from analogous chiral zirconium metallocenes.

In light of the several deficiencies of the coordination catalyst systems heretofore contemplated, the need
for an improved catalyst system which: (1) permits better
control of molecular weight and molecular weight distribuion;
(2) is not subject to activation equilibrium and (3) does not
involve the use of an undesirable cocatalyst is believed
readily apparent. The need for a catalyst system which will
facilitate the production of higher molecular weight polymeric
products and facilitate incorporation of a larger amount of
commonomer into a copolymer and alter the relative distribution
of such commonomers in such copolymers is also believed to be
readily apparent.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has now been discovered that certain of the foregoing and other disadvantages of the prior art ionic olefin polymerization catalysts can be avoided, or at least reduced. 25 with all of the ionic catalysts of the present invention and that all of the foregoing and other disadvantages of the prior art ionic olefin polymerization catalysts can be avoided, or at least reduced, with certain of the ionic catalysts of this invention and improved olefir, diolefin and/or acetylenically - 30 unsaturated monomer polymerization processes provided therewith. It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide improved ionic catalyst systems which are useful in the polymerization of olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated monomers. It is another object of this 35 invention to provide a method for preparing such improved catalysts. It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved polymerization process using such improved catalysts. It is still another object of this invention

to provide such an improved catalyst which is not subject to ion equilibrium reversal. It is still a further object of this invention t provid such an improved catalyst-which may permit bett r control of the product polymer m 1 cular weight 5 and molecular weight distribution. It is yet another object of this invention to provide such an improved catalyst which may be used with less risk of fire. It is yet a further object of this invention to provide certain improved catalysts, particularly certain hafnium containing catalysts, 10 which will yield relatively high molecular weight polymers. It is even another object of this invention to provide certain improved catalysts, particularly certain hafnium containing catalysts, which will yield copolymers containing relatively large amounts of a plurality of comonomers, which 15 comonomers are distributed in a manner at least approaching randomness. It is even a further object of this invention to provide polymeric products produced with these catalysts having relatively narrow molecular weight distributions and which are free of certain metal impurities. It is still even 20 another object of this invention to provide certain polymeric products, prepared with certain of these catalysts, having relatively high molecular weights. It is still even a further object of this invention to provide certain copolymers, prepared with certain of these catalysts, containing 25 relatively large amounts of a plurality of comonomers, which comonomers are distributed in a manner at least approaching randomness. The foregoing and still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the description set forth hereinafter and the examples - 30 included herein.

In accordance with the present invention, the foregoing and other objects and advantages are accomplished with
and by using a catalyst prepared by combining at least two
components. The first of which components is a bis(cyclopentadienyl) derivative of a Group IV-B metal compound
containing at least one ligand which will combine with the
second component or at least a portion thereof such as a
cation portion thereof. The second of which components is an

ion-exchange compound comprising a cation which will irrev rsibly react with at least one ligand contained in said Group IV-B m tal compound (first component) and an anion which is a single coordination complex comprising a plurality of lipo-5 philic radicals covalently coordinated to and shielding a central formally charge-bearing metal or metalloid atom, which amion is bulky, labile and stable to any reaction involving the cation of the second component. The chargebearing metal or metalloid may be any metal or metalloid 10 capable of forming a coordination complex which is not hydrolyzed by aqueous solutions. Upon combination of the first and second components, the cation of the second component reacts with one of the ligands of the first component, thereby generating an ion pair consisting of a 15 Group IV-B metal cation with a formal coordination number of 3 and a valence of +4 and the aforementioned anion, which anion is compatible with and noncoordinating towards the metal cation formed from the first component. The anion of . the second compound must be capable of stabilizing the 20 Group IV-B metal cation complex without interfering with the Group IV-B metal cation's or its decomposition product's ability to function as a catalyst and must be sufficiently labile to permit displacement by an olefin, diolefin or an acetylenically unsaturated monomer during polymerization. 25 For example, Bochmann and Wilson have reported (J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Comm., 1986, pp. 1610-1611) that bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium dimethyl reacts with tetrafluoroboric acid to form bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium methyl tetrafluoroborate. The anion is, however, insufficiently labile " 30 to be displaced by ethylene.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As indicated supra, the present invention relates to catalysts, to a method for preparing such catalysts, to a method for using such catalysts and to polymeric products

35 produced with such catalysts. The catalysts are particularly useful for polymerizing a-olefins, diolefins and acetylenically unsaturated monomers either alone or in combination with other a-olefins, diolefins and/or other unsaturated

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monomers. The improved catalysts are prepared by combining at least one first compound which is a bis(cycl pentadi nyl) derivativ of a metal of Group IV-B f th Periodic Table of the Elements containing at least one ligand which will 5 combine with the cation of the second compound which first compound is capable of forming a cation formally having a coordination number of 3 and a valence of +4 and at least one second compound which is a salt comprising a cation capable of donating a proton which will irreversibly combine with 10 said at least one ligand (substituent) liberated by said Group IV-B metal compound and an anion which is a single coordination complex comprising a charge-bearing metal or metalloid core, which anion is both bulky and labile, compatible with and noncoordinating toward the Group IV-B 15 metal cation formed from the first component, and capable of stabilizing the Group IV-B metal cation without interfering with said Group IV-B metal cation's or its decomposition product's ability to polymerize α -olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated monomers.

All reference to the Periodic Table of the Elements herein shall refer to the Periodic Table of the Elements, published and copyrighted by CRC Press, Inc., 1984. Also, any reference to a Group or Groups shall be to the Group or Groups as reflected in this Periodic Table of 25 the Elements.

As used herein, the recitation "compatible noncoordinating anion" means an anion which either does not coordinate to said cation or which is only weakly coordinated to said cation thereby remaining sufficiently labile to be 30 displaced by a neutral Lewis base. The recitation "compatible noncoordinating anion" specifically refers to an anion which when functioning as a stabilizing anion in the catalyst system of this invention does not transfer an anionic substituent or fragment thereof to said cation thereby forming 35 a neutral four coordinate metallocene and a neutral metal or metalloid byproduct. Compatible anions are anions which are not degraded to neutrality when the initially formed complex decomposes. The recitation "metalloid, as used herein,

includes non-metals such as boron, phosphorus and the like which exhibit semi-metallic characteristics.

The Group IV-B metal compounds; i.e., titanium, zirconium and hafnium c mpounds, useful as first compounds in the preparation of the improved catalyst of this invention are bis(cyclopentadienyl) derivatives of titanium, zirconium and hafnium. In general, useful titanium, zirconium and hafnium compounds may be represented by the following general formulae:

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- 1. (A-Cp)MX₁X₂
- 2. (A-Cp)MX'1X'2
- 3. (A-Cp)ML
- 4. (Cp*)(CpR)MX₁

Wherein:

15 (A-Cp) is either (Cp)(Cp*) or Cp-A'-Cp* and Cp and Cp* are the same or different substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals wherein A' is a covalent bridging group containing a Group IV-A element; 20 M is a metal selected from the Group consisting of titanium, zirconium and hafnium; L is an olefin, diolefin or aryne ligand; x_1 and x_2 are, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydride radicals, 25 hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms are replaced with a halogen atom, having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, organometalloid 30 radicals comprising a Group IV-A element wherein each of the hydrocarbyl substitutions contained in the organic portion of said organometalloid, independently, contain from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms and the like; 35 X'1 and X'2 are joined and bound to the metal atom to form a metallacycle, in which

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th metal atom, X'1 and X'2 form a hydrocarbocyclic ring containing from about 3 to about 20 carbon atoms; and R is a substituent, preferably a hydrocarbyl substituent, on one of the cyclopentadienyl radicals which is also bound to the metal

Each carbon atom in the cyclopentadienyl radical may be, independently, unsubstituted or substituted with the same or 10 a different radical selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals wherein one or more hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, hydrocarbyl-substituted metalloid radicals wherein the metalloid is selected from Group IV-A of the Periodic Table 15 of the Elements, and halogen radicals. Suitable hydrocarbyl and substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, which may be substituted for at least one hydrogen atom in the cyclopentadienyl radical, will contain from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms and include straight and branched alkyl radicals, cyclic hydro-20 carbon radicals, alkyl-substituted cyclic hydrocarbon radicals, aromatic radicals and alkyl-substituted aromatic radicals. Similarly, and when X1 and/or X2 is a hydrocarbyl or substituted-hydrocarbyl radical, each may, independently, contain from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms and be a 25 straight or branched alkyl radical, a cyclic hydrocarbyl radical, an alkyl-substituted cyclohydrocarbyl radical, an aromatic radical or an alkyl-substituted aromatic radical. Suitable organometalloid radicals include mono-, di- and trisubstituted organometalloid radicals of Group IV-A 30 elements wherein each of the hydrocarbyl groups contain from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms. More particularly, suitable organometalloid radicals include trimethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, ethyldimethylsilyl, methyldiethylsilyl, triphenylgermyl, trimethylgermyl and the like.

Illustrative, but not limiting examples of bis-(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds which may be used in the preparation of the improved catalyst of this invention are dihydrocarbyl-substituted bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium

compounds such as bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium diethyl, bis(cyclop ntadienyl)zirconium dipropyl, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dibutyl, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium diphenyl, bis(cyclopenta-5 dienyl)zirconium dineopentyl, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium di(m-tolyl), bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium di(p-tolyl) and the like; (monohydrocarbyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as (methylcyclopentadienyl) (cyclopentadienyl) and bis(methylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium 10 dimethyl, (ethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis-(ethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (propylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(propylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, [(n-butyl)cyclopentadienyl](cyclopentadienyl) and bis[(n-butyl)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dimethyl, 15 [(t-butyl)cyclopentadienyl](cyclopentadienyl) and bis-[(t-butyl)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dimethyl, (cyclohexylmethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(cyclohexylmethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (benzylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(benzylcyclopentadienyl)-20 zirconium dimethyl, (diphenylmethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(diphenylmethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl (methylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis-(methylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (ethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(ethylcyclopentadienyl)-25 zirconium dihydride, (propylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(propylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, [(n-butyl)cyclopentadienyl](cyclopentadienyl) and bis-[(n-butyl)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dihydride, [(t-butyl)cyclopentadienyl](cyclopentadienyl) and bis[(t-butyl)cyclo-. 30 pentadienyl]zirconium dihydride, (cyclohexylmethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(cyclohexylmethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (benzylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(benzylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (diphenylmethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) 35 and bis(diphenylmethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride and the like; (polyhydrocarbyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as (dimethylcyclopentadienyl)-(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium

dimethyl, (trim thylcyclopentadi nyl)(cyclop ntadienyl) and bis(trimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (tetram thylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (p rm thylcyclo-5 pentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(permethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)-(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (indenyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis-(indenyl)zirconium dimethyl, (dimethylcyclopentadienyl)-10 (cyclopentadienyl) and bis(dimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (trimethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (permethylcyclopenta-15 dienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(permethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)-(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (indenyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(indenyl)zirconium dihydride and the like; (metal hydro-20 carbyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as (trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (trimethylgermylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylgermylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (trimethyl-25 stannylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethyl stannylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (trimethylplumbyl cyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylplumbylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylsilylcyclo-- 30 pentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (trimethylgarmylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylgermylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (trimethylstannylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylstannylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride, (trimethylplumbylcyclopenta-35 dienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trimethylplumbylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride and the like; (halogen-substituted cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as (trifluoromethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl) and bis(trifluoromethyl-

cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, (trifluoromethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadi nyl) and bis(trifluorom thylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride and the like; silyl-substituted (cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as 5 bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium di(trimethylsilyl), bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium di(phenyldimethylsilyl) and the like; (bridged-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as methylene bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, ethylene bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, dimethylsilyl bis-10 (cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, methylene bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride and dimethylsilyl bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dihydride and the like; bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconacycles such as bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconacyclobutane, bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconacyclo-15 pentane, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconaindane and the like; olefin, diolefin and aryne ligand substituted bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as bis(cyclopentadienyl)-(1,3-butadiene)zirconium, bis(cyclopentadienyl)(2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene)zirconium, bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)-20 (benzyne)zirconium and the like; (hydrocarbyl)(hydride)substituted bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds such as bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium (phenyl)(hydride), bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium (methyl)(hydride) and the like; and bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds in 25 which a substituent on the cyclopentadienyl radical is bound to the metal such as (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienylmethylene)zirconium hydride, (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienylmethylene)zirconium phenyl and the like. -- 30

A similar list of illustrative bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium and bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium compounds
could be made, but since the lists would be nearly identical
to that already presented with respect to bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds, such lists are not deemed essential to a complete disclosure. Those skilled in the art,
however, are aware that bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium compounds
and bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium compounds corresponding to
certain of the bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds

listed supra ar not known. The lists would, th refore, be r duced by thes compounds. Other bis(cyclopentadi nyl)-hafnium compounds and other bis(cyclopentadienyl)titanium compounds as well as other bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium compounds which are useful in the catalyst compositions of this invention will, of course, be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Compounds useful as a second component in the preparation of the catalyst of this invention will comprise a 10 cation, which is a Bronsted acid capable of donating a proton, and a compatible noncoordinating anion containing a single coordination complex comprising a charge-bearing metal or metalloid core, which anion is relatively large (bulky), capable of stabilizing the active catalyst species (the 15 Group IV-B cation) which is formed when the two compounds are combined and said anion will be sufficiently labile to be displaced by olefinic, diolefinic and acetylenically unsaturated substrates or other neutral Lewis bases such as ethers, nitriles and the like. As indicated supra, any metal 20 or metalloid capable of forming a coordination complex which is stable in water may be used or contained in the anion of the second compound. Suitable metals, then, include, but are not limited to, aluminum, gold, platinum and the like. Suitable metalloids include, but are not limited to, boron, 25 phosphorus, silicon and the like. Compounds containing anions which comprise coordination complexes containing a single metal or metalloid atom are, of course, well known and many, particularly such compounds containing a single boron atom in the anion portion, are available commercially. In light of $^{\circ}$ 30 this, salts containing anions comprising a coordination complex containing a single boron atom are preferred.

In general, the second compounds useful in the preparation of the catalysts of this invention may be represented by the following general formula:

 $[(L'-H)^+]_d[(M')^{m+Q_1Q_2\cdots Q_n}]^{d-}$

Wherein:

35

L' is a neutral Lewis base; H is a hydrogen atom;

(L'all 18 a Bronsted scidi solected from the Hi 13 a metal or metalloid solected from the Groups subtended by Groups V-B to V-N of the Groups and the Franchise of the Groups and the Franchise of the Groups and the Franchise of the Groups and the Groups are the Groups and the Groups are the Groups and the Groups are the Croups subtended by Groups V-B to V-A of the Periodic Table of the Elements; 10. Groups [L'.H] is a Bronsted scid: Periodic Table of the Elements, is. III-A, KO 88 105 T93 IV-A, and V-A;

Solution independently, from one of hundride redirection of hundride redirection of hundride redirection of the Groun conciety on the crown conciety of the crow Ol to On are selected, independently, srom on one consisting of hydride radicals, and one on one of the crows and one of the crows and one of the crows and one of the crows are as a constant of the crows and one of the crows are as a constant of the crows are a con the Group consisting of hydride and arrivarent and salvaride and arrivarent and subscriptions of hydride and subscriptions and subscriptions of hydride and services of hydride and hydride dialkylamido radicala, alkoxida and aryloxida
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radicala, hydrocarbyl
radicala, radicala, and organimera, inid madicala, and organization and aryloxida radicals, hydrocarbyl and substituted-hydro-IV-A, and V-A; carbyl redicals and organometalloid of OI to and any one; harida radical and organometalloid of OI to and any one, but not more than one, of Q1 to

on may be a halide radical

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on helm On may be a halide radical the remainir on to On forecoming radical a: 5 ul to un paing, independently, second compounds comprising boron which are particularly to this invention of catalysts of this invention Second compounds comprising boron which are particularly may the following deneral formula: 10 useful in the preparation of catalysts of this inv 15 L' is a neutral Levis base; B 13 boron in a valence II. Hit is a Broughed acid; Ari and Arz are the same arms arms. I are arms arms. H 18 a hydrogen atom; B 18 poron in a valence state of 3:

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armatic or enactivited. aronatic or substituted aronatic hydrocarbon of substituted aronatic hydrocarbon of the substituted aronatic hydrocarbon of th wherein: radicals containing from about 6 to about 20 carbon at the story and service a carbon atoms and may be linked to each and through a stable bridging group; and through a stable bridging group. through a stable pringing group; and independent as and stable pringing group; and independent and stable principles considering of huderident as and stable principles considering of huderidents considering c X3 and X4 are radicals selected, independence of hydrical and the group consisting the province of the provinc 25 ently, from the group consisting of hydrice at the group consisting of hydrice at the group consisting of the proviso the proviso at the provisor radicals, halide radicals, halide at the that only K3 or K4 will be halide at the that only k3 or k4 will make a m ther only X3 or X4 will be halide at the time.

Same time, annual and annual an same time, hydrocarbyl radicals containing substituted atoms, substitu _ 30 35

1

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hydrocarbyl radicals, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms is replaced by a halogen atom, containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, hydrocarbyl-substituted m tal (organometalloid) radicals wherein each hydrocarbyl substitution contains from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms and said metal is selected from Group IV-A of the Periodic Table of the Elements and the like.

10 In general, Ar₁ and Ar₂ may, independently, be any aromatic or substituted-aromatic hydrocarbon radical containing from about 6 to about 20 carbon atoms. Suitable aromatic radicals include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl and anthracenyl radicals. Suitable substituents on useful substituted-15 aromatic hydrocarbon radicals, include, but are not necessarily limited to, hydrocarbyl radicals, organometalloid radicals, alkoxy radicals, alkylamido radicals, fluoro and fluorohydrocarbyl radicals and the like such as those useful as X3 or X4. The substituent may be ortho, meta or para, 20 relative to the carbon atom bonded to the boron atom. When either or both X3 and X4 are a hydrocarbyl radical, each may be the same or a different aromatic or substitutedaromatic radical as are Ar₁ and Ar₂, or the same may be a straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl radical having 25 from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, a cyclic hydrocarbon radical having from about 5 to about 8 carbon atoms or an alkylsubstituted cyclic hydrocarbon radical having from about 6 to about 20 carbon atoms. X3 and X4 may also, independently, be alkoxy or dialkylamido radicals wherein the alkyl portion - 30 of said alkoxy and dialkylamido radicals contains from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, hydrocarbyl radicals and organometalloid radicals having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms and the like. As indicated supra, Ar₁ and Ar₂ may be linked to each other. Similarly, either or both of Ar1 and Ar2 could be 35 linked to either X3 or X4. Finally, X3 and X4 may also be linked to each other through a suitable bridging group.

Illustrative, but not limiting, examples of boron compounds which may be used as a second component in the

PCT (US&8)00123 preparation of the improved catalyate of this invention are greater as triethylammonium palts such as triethylammonium preparation of the improved catalyate of this invention are greater as triethylammonium palts such as triethylammonium preparation of the improved catalyate of this invention are Dreparation of the improved catalyata of this invention are amountum parts and the improved catalyata of this invention, the improved catalyata of this invention, are triproved catalyata of this invention are triproved catalyata. trialkyl-substituted ammonium saits such as triethylammonium saits such as triethylammonium tripropylammonium tripropyla tetra(phonyl)boron. trinethylammonium tetra(prenyl)boron.

tri(n.buryl)boron. trinethylammonium tetra(prenyl)boron.

tri(n.buryl)boron. trinethylammonium tetra(prenyl)boron. tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(pentafluoroomanyl)boron.

tri(n-butyl)boron.

trimetrylammonium tetra(pentafluoroomanyl)boron.

trimetrylammonium tetra(pentafluoroomanyl)boron. tetra(p-tolyl)boron.

trimethylammonlum tetra(o-tolyl)boron.

tributylammonlum
tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron.

tributylammonlum
tetra(o, p-dimethylahenyl)boron. tributylanmonium tetral pentafiuorophanyl boron. tributylanmonium tetral pentafiuorophanyl boron. tributylanmonium tetral pentafiuorophanyl boron. tributylanmonium tetral pentafiu tetral pentafiu tributylanmonium tetral pentafiu tetral pe ammonium tetra(o, p-directny) pheny) boron. tributy) ammonium tetra(pentafluoro) tributy) ammonium tetra(pentafluoro) tributy) ammonium tetra(pentafluoro) tributy) ammonium tetra(pentafluoron) tributy) ammonium tetra(penta WO.88/05793 tetra(m, n-dimethylphenyl)boron, triburylammonium tetra(pantafiuoron and triburylammonium tetra(pantafiuoron and triburylammonium tetra(pantafiuoron and triburylammonium tetra(o-tolvi)boron and triburylammonium tetra(pantafiuoro-tolvi)boron and triburylammonium tetra(pantafiuoro-tolvi)boron and triburylammonium tetra(o-tolvi)boron and triburylammonium tetra(o-tol fluoromethylphenyl)boron, rributylammonium tetralpentafluoron and tetraloronand tetral phenyllboxon, tri(n.butyllamonium tetra(ortolyl)boxon and tetra(ortolyl)boxon, tri(n.butyllamonium tetra such as N.N.distrylandlinium tetra tetra tetra phenyllboxon, N.N.distrylandlinium tetra tetra phenyllboxon, N.N.distrylandlinium tetra ph the like; N.N.-cialkyl antimum salts such as N.N.-cialkyl antimum tetra (nheny) boron, N.N.-cialkyl tetra (nheny) boron, N.N.-cialkyl horon, N.N.-2.4.6-centagethyl antimum tetra (nheny) horon. N.N.-2.4.6-centagethyl antimum tetra (nheny) horon. N.N.-2.4.6-centagethyl antimum (nheny) horon. anilinium tetra(chenyl)boron, N,N-diethylanilinium tetra(phenyl)(ohenyl)boron, N,N-2,4,6-pentamethylanilinium salta such as di(ohenyl)boron, N,N-2,4,6-pentamethylanilinium salta such as di(ohenyl)boron, N,N-2,4,6-pentamethylanilinium salta such as di(ohenyl)boron and the like; dialkyl ammonium salta such as di-(pheny) boron, N.N-2,4,6-pentamethylandlinium tetra(pheron) boron, N.N-2,4,6-pentamethylandlinium salta such as direction and the 11ke; dialkyl ammonium salta sucrobenyl boron.

(phenyl) boron, N.N-2,4,6-pentamethylandlinium salta such as direction and the 11ke; dialkyl ammonium tetra(pentamethylandlinium tetra(penta boron and the like; tetral pantafluorophenyl like; and triaryl tetral phenyl boron and the like; and triaryl horon and the like; and triaryl boron and triaryl b (1-Propyl) ammonium tetra(pentafiuorophenyl) boron, dicyclosetra(pentafiuorophenyl) boron and the like; tetra(phenyl) boron, and triarily tetra(phenyl) boron, dicyclothe like; tetra(pentafiuorophenyl) boron, like; tetra(phenyl) boron, and the like; tetra(phenyl) boron and t hexylammonium salts such as triphenyl) phosphonium tetra(phenyl) phosp phosphonium salts such as triphenylphosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron, and the phosphonium tetra(phenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)phosphonium tetra(onenyl)phosphonium tetra(one boron, tri(sethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron, and the tri(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron tri(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron, and the tri(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron, and tri(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)boron, and tri(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(phenyl)phosphonium tetra(dimethylphenyl)phosphonium tetra(dimethylpheny Similar lists of suttable compounds containing other metal and metallolds which are useful as not deamed the such lists are not deamed to the metal and metallolds which are lists are not deamed the such lists are not deamed to the metal and metallolds which such lists are not deamed to the metallolds and metallolds which such lists are not deamed to the metallolds are not deamed to t other metala and metalloids which are useful as second to seed the components could be sede, but such lists this recard. It the components to a complete disclosure. necessary to a complete disclosure. It this regard, it to be should be noted that the foregoing that would be useful as in the second of the s should be noted that the foregoing list would be useful as compounds containing other metals or metal. exhaustive and other poron compounds that would be useful at that would be useful as that would be useful as that would be useful and other metals of person compounds other forecoing general the forecoing general wall as useful compounds apparent, from the forecoing general useful compounds other from the forecoing general that would be readily apparent. well as would be readily apparent, the art.

loids would be those skilled in the art. TO B CORPLETE STORY TO B CORPLETE A STORY OF SUCH AS STOR 20 11Ke. In general, and while most first components

In general, be combined with most second components

identified above to produce an active olefin polymerization identified above may be combined with most second components to continued polymerisation to continued polymerisation identified above to produce to continued polymerisation identified above in important to continued polymerisation it is important to continued polymerisation. loids would be readily apparent, from the catalyat, it is important to continued polymerization be a component or a decomposition product thereof the adaptive the test of the decomposition are decomposition or a decomposition or decomposition or a decomposition or a decomposition or decomposit identified above to produce an active olefin polymerization intrially form the metal catalyst. Operations that either the metal cation product that that of a decomposition important that the the first the first that the f the first component or a decomposition product thereof that the relatively stable compound be stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the stable to hydrolysis when a relatively stable compound the relatively stable catalyst. It is also important that the anion of the second compound be atold in portant that the anion of the second compound the seco anion of the second compound be stable to hydrolysis when a second compound be stable to hydrolysis when a

acidity of the second component b sufficient, relative to
the first, to facilitate the needed proton transfer.
Conversely, the basicity of the metal complex must also be
sufficient to facilitate the needed proton transfer. C rtain
metallocene compounds - using bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl as an illustrative, but not limiting
example - are resistant to reaction with all but the
strongest Bronsted acids and thus are not suitable as first
components to form the catalysts of this invention. In
general, bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compounds which can be
hydrolyzed by aqueous solutions can be considered suitable as
first components to form the catalysts described herein.

With respect to the combination of first (metalcontaining) component to second component to form a catalyst 15 of this invention, it should be noted that the two compounds combined for preparation of the active catalyst must be selected so as to avoid transfer of a fragment of the anion, particularly an aryl group, to the metal cation, thereby forming a catalytically inactive species. This could be done 20 by steric hindrance, resulting from substitutions on the cyclopentadienyl carbon atoms as well as substitutions on the aromatic carbon atoms of the anion. It follows, then, that metal compounds (first components) comprising perhydrocarbylsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals could be effectively 25 used with a broader range of second compounds than could metal compounds (first components) comprising unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals. As the amount and size of the substitutions on the cyclopentadienyl radicals are reduced, however, more effective catalysts are obtained with second - 30 compounds containing anions which are more resistant to degradation, such as those with substituents on the ortho positions of the phenyl rings. Another means of rendering the anion more resistant to degradation is afforded by fluorine substitution, especially perfluoro-substitution, in 35 the anion. Fluoro-substituted stabilizing anions may, then, be used with a broader range of metal compounds (first components).

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In general, th catalyst can b prepared by combining th two components in a suitable solvent at a temperatur within the range from about -100°C to about 300°C. The catalyst may be used to polymerize a-olefins and/or acetylen-5 ically unsaturated monomers having from 2 to about 18 carbon atoms and/or diolefins having from 4 to about 18 carbon atoms either alone or in combination. The catalyst may also be used to polymerize α -olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated monomers in combination with other unsaturated 10 monomers. In general, the polymerization may be accomplished at conditions well known in the prior art. It will, of course, be appreciated that the catalyst system will form in situ if the components thereof are added directly to the polymerization process and a suitable solvent or diluent, 15 including condensed monomer, is used in said polymerization process. It is, however, preferred to form the catalyst in a separate step in a suitable solvent prior to adding the same to the polymerization step. While the catalysts do not contain pyrophoric species, the catalysts' components are 20 sensitive to both moisture and oxygen and should be handled and transferred in an inert atmosphere such as nitrogen, argon or helium.

As indicated supra, the improved catalyst of the present invention will, preferably, be prepared in a suitable 25 solvent or diluent. Suitable solvents or diluents include any of the solvents known in the prior art to be useful as solvents in the polymerization of clefins, diolefins and acetylenically unsaturated monomers. Suitable solvents, then, include, but are not necessarily limited to, straight 30 and branched-chain hydrocarbons such as isobutane, butane, pentane, hexane, heptane, octane and the like; cyclic and alicyclic hydrocarbons such as cyclohexane, cycloheptane, methylcyclohexane, methylcycloheptane and the like and aromatic and alkyl-substituted aromatic compounds such as 35 benzene, toluene, xylene and the like. Suitable solvents also include liquid olefins which may act as monomers or comonomers including ethylene, propylene, butadiene, cyclopentene, 1-hexane, 3-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene,

1,4-hexadiene, 1-octene, 1-decene and the like. Suitabl solv nts further includ basic solvents not generally useful as polymerization solvents when conv ntional Ziegler-Natta type polymerization catalysts are used such as chlorobenzene.

While the inventors do not wish to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that when the two compounds used to prepare the improved catalysts of the present invention are combined in a suitable solvent or diluent, all or a part of the cation of the second compound (the acidic proton) 10 combines with one of the substituents on the metal containing (first component). In the case where the first component has a formula corresponding to that of general formula 1 supra, a neutral compound is liberated, which neutral compound either remains in solution or is liberated as a gas. In this regard, 15 it should be noted that if either x_1 or x_2 in the metal containing (first component) is a hydride, hydrogen gas may be liberated. Similarly, if either x_1 or x_2 is a methyl radical, methane may be liberated as a gas. In the cases where the first component has a formula corresponding to 20 those of general formulae 2, 3 or 4, one of the substituents on the metal-containing (first) component is protonated but, in general, no substituent is liberated from the metal. It is preferred that the molar ratio of first component to second component be 1:1 or greater. The conjugate base of 25 the cation of the second compound, if one remains, will be a neutral compound which will remain in solution or complex with the metal cation formed, though, in general, a second compound is chosen such that any binding of the neutral conjugate base to the metal cation will be weak or non-30 existant. Thus, as the steric bulk of this conjugate base increases, it will, simply, remain in solution without interfering with the active catalyst. Similarly, if the cation of the second compound is a trialkyl ammonium ion, this ion will liberate a hydrogen atom to form gaseous 35 hydrogen, methane or the like and the conjugate base of the cation will be a tertiary amine. In like fashion, if the cation were a hydrocarbyl- substituted phosphonium ion containing at least one reactive proton, as is essential to

th present invention, the conjugate base of the cation would be a phosphine.

While still not wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is also believed that as one of the metal 5 containing (first component) substituents (a ligand) is liberated, the noncoordinating anion originally contained in the second compound used in the catalyst preparation combines with and stabilizes either the metal cation formed from the first component, formally having a coordination number of 3 10 and a +4 valence, or a decomposition product thereof. The metal cation and noncoordinating anion will remain so combined until the catalyst is contacted with one or more olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated monomers either alone or in combination with one or more other monomers 15 or another neutral Lewis base. As indicated supra, the anion contained in the second compound must be sufficiently labile to permit rapid displacement by an olefin, diolefin or an acetylenically unsaturated monomer to facilitate polymerization.

The chemical reactions which occur in forming the catalysts of this invention may, when a preferred, boron containing compound is used as the second component, be represented by reference to the general formulae set forth herein as follows:

In the foregoing reaction equations, the numbers correspond to the numbers set forth in combination with the gen ral equations for us ful metallocen compounds of Group IV-B metals (first components). In general the stability and rate 5 of formation of the products in the foregoing reaction equations, particularly the metal cation, will vary depending upon the choice of the solvent, the acidity of the [L'-H]+ selected, the particular L', the amion, the temperature at which the reaction is completed and the particular dicyclo-10 pentadienyl derivative of the metal selected. Generally, the initially formed ion-pair will be an active polymerization catalyst and will polymerize a-olefins, diolefins and acetylenically unsaturated monomers either alone or in combination with other monomers. In some cases, however, the initial 15 metal cation will decompose to yield an active polymerization catalyst.

As indicated supra, most first compounds identified above will combine with most second compounds identified above to produce an active catalyst, particularly an active 20 polymerization catalyst. The actual active catalyst species is not, however, always sufficiently stable as to permit its separation and subsequent identification. Moreover, and while many of the initial metal cations formed are relatively stable, it has become apparent that the initially formed 25 metal cation frequently decomposes into one or more other catalytically active species.

While still not wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that the active catalyst species which have not been characterized, including active decomposition products, are of the same type as those which have been isolated and fully characterized or at least retain the essential ionic structure required for functioning as a catalyst. More particularly, it is believed that the active catalyst species which have not been isolated, including active decomposition products, are the same type as the isolated and characterized active catalyst species in that the these species contain a bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal center which center remains cationic, unsaturated and has a metal-

carbon bond which is reactive with olefins, diolefins and acetylenically unsaturated compounds. Furthermore, it is believed that the decomposition products may react with hydrogen gas to enter into a common state of equilibrium 5 involving the cationic hydride complex, [Cp'CpMH]+X-.

This behavior is best exemplified in a peralkylcyclopentadienyl system wherein a tetraphenyl borate is used
as the second component. For example, the reaction of
Cp*2ZrMe2 (where Cp* = C5Me5) and [Bu3NH]*[B(Ph'4)]*

(where Ph' = phenyl or para-alkylphenyl with hydrogen or an
alkyl group in the para-position) in toluene gives
[Cp*2ZrMe]*[B(Ph')4]* which is unstable and decomposes by
loss of methane to give a single catalytically active product.
The deep red product has been fully characterized by NMR

spectroscopy and single crystal x-ray diffraction. The
general structure of this zwitterionic catalyst of this type
is shown below:

20

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Wherein:

Cp* is a peralkyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl radical wherein each of said alkyl substitutions may be the same or a different C1-C20 alkyl radical, preferably the same or a different C1-C6 alkyl radical, most preferably the same or a different C1-C4 alkyl radical; B is boron;

30 Zr is zirconium;

Ph' is a phenyl or alkyl-substituted phenyl radical and each of the 3 Ph's may be the same or different and the alkyl substitutions may

PCT/U588/100223 bo C1-C4: and C1-C6: cost proferably C1-C4: and or an alkyl group having from 1 to prafarably from 1 to prafa R 18 hydrogen or an alwyl group having from 1 to preferably from 1 to preferably from 1 to about 14 corpon atoms. most preferably from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms. to about 14 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, most preferably from 1 to about 6 carbon arms arms Addition of excess hydrogen gas to a toluene golution as replied permetryl-substituted reaction as replied to a toluene golution as to about 4 carbon atoms, to a toluene solution
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inactive metal-containing compound and regen rating either
the same or a different second component. This new second
compon nt activat s any excess first component present to
regenerate the active catalyst species of the present invention. While still not wishing to be bound by any particular
theory, it is believed that increasing the concentration of
the catalyst or using second components containing more
acidic ammonium cations will either diminish the length of
this induction period or eliminate it completely.

In general, and as indicated supra, the improved catalyst of this invention will polymerize olefins, diolefins and/or acetylenically unsaturated monomers either alone or in combination with other olefins and/or other unsaturated monomers at conditions well known in the prior art for conventional Ziegler-Natta catalysis. In the polymerization process of this invention, the molecular weight appears to be a function of both catalyst concentration and polymerization temperature and polymerization pressure. The polymers produced with the catalyst of this invention, when prepared in the absence of significant mass transport effects, will, generally, have relatively narrow molecular weight distributions.

Certain of the catalysts of this invention,
particularly those based on hafnocenes - using the catalyst

25 produced from the reaction of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium
dimethyl and the trisubstituted ammonium salt of tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron as an example - when used as described
herein for the polymerization and copolymerization of
a-olefins, diolefins, and/or acetylenically unsaturated

30 monomers, in the absence of a chain transfer agent, can lead
to the production of extremely high molecular weight polymers
and copolymers having relatively narrow molecular weight
distributions. In this regard, it should be noted that homopolymers and copolymers having molecular weights up to about
35 2 x 106 and molecular weight distributions within the range
of about 1.5 to about 15 can be produced with the catalysts
of this invention. The substituents on the cyclopentadienyl

radicals, however, can exert a profound influence on polymer molecular weights.

Catalysts of this invention containing a first component which is either a pur enantiomer or the racemic mixture of two enantiomers of a rigid, chiral metallocene can polymerize prochiral olefins (propylene and higher a-olefins) to isotactic polymers. Bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compounds in which each of the cyclopentadienyl radicals is substituted and containing a covalent bridging group between the two cyclopentadienyl radicals are particularly useful for isotactic polymerizations of this type.

A particularly surprising feature of some of the catalysts of this invention, particularly those based on hafnocenes in combination with a second component comprising 15 boron, is that when the catalysts of this invention are used to copolymerize α -olefins, either alone or in combination with diolefins, the amount of higher molecular weight olefin or diolefin incorporated into the copolymer is significantly increased when compared to copolymers prepared with 20 the more conventional Ziegler-Natta type catalysts and bis-(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium catalysts. The relative rates of reaction of ethylene and higher α -olefins with the aforementioned hafnium-based catalysts of this invention are much closer than with conventional Ziegler-Natta catalysts of the 25 Group IV-B metals. The monomer distribution in copolymers prepared with the catalysts of this invention, particularly with the lower α -olefins and lower diolefins, will range from near perfectly alternating to statistically random.

In general, catalysts can be selected so as to

30 produce the polymer products which will be free of certain trace metals generally found in polymers produced with Ziegler-Natta type catalysts such as aluminum, magnesium, chloride and the like. The polymer products produced with the catalysts of this invention should, then, have a broader range of applications than polymers produced with more conventional Ziegler-Natta type catalysts comprising a metal alkyl, such as an aluminum alkyl.

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Also unlike polymers h r tofore produced with conventional Ziegler-Natta typ polymerization catalysts, the polymers produced with zwitterionic catalysts in the absence of hydrogen or other chain terminating reag nts, contain predominantly internal rather than terminal unsaturation. In this regard, it should be noted that if the terminal carbon atom in the polymer chain were numbered one, the unsaturation contained in the polymers produced in the process of this invention would be 2,3 rather than the more traditional 1,2.

10 PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound, said metal being selected from the Group consisting of titanium, zirconium and hafnium, said compound containing two, independently, substi-15 tuted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals and one or two lower alkyl substituents and/or one or two hydride substituents will be combined with a trisubstituted ammonium salt of either a substituted or unsubstituted tetra(aromatic)boron. Each of the trisubstitutions in the ammonium cation 20 will be the same or a different lower alkyl or aryl radical. By lower alkyl is meant an alkyl radical containing from one to four carbon atoms. When the bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound used is a bis(perhydrocarbyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl)metal compound, an unsubstituted or partially substi-25 tuted tetra(aromatic)boron salt may be used. Tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(phenyl)boron, tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra-(p-tolyl)boron and tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-ethylphenyl)boron are particularly preferred. As the number of hydrocarbyl-substitutions on the cyclopentadienyl radicals is 30 reduced, however, substituted anions will be used in the trisubstituted ammonium salts, particularly, pentafluorosubstituted anions. Tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(fluorophenyl)boron is particularly preferred.

In a most preferred embodiment of the present inven-35 tion, bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl or bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl will be reacted with N,N-dimethylanilinium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron to produce the most preferred catalyst of the present invention. The two components will be combined at a temperature within the rang from about 0°C to about 100°C. The components will be combined, preferably, in an aromatic hydrocarb n selvent, most preferably toluene. Nominal holding times within the range from about 10 seconds to about 60 minutes will be sufficient to produce both the preferred and most preferred catalyst of this invention.

In a preferred embodiment, the catalyst, immediately after formation, will then be used to polymerize a lower 10 a-olefin particularly ethylene or propylene, most preferably ethylene, at a temperature within the range from about 0°C to about 100°C and at a pressure within the range from about 15 to about 500 psig. In a most preferred embodiment of the present invention, the most preferred catalyst will be used 15 either to homopolymerize ethylene or to copolymerize ethylene with a lower a-olefin having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, thereby yielding a plastic or an elastomeric copolymer. In both the preferred and most preferred embodiments, the monomers will be maintained at polymerization conditions for 20 a nominal holding time within the range from about'1 to about 60 minutes and the catalyst will be used at a concentration within the range from about 10^{-5} to about 10^{-1} moles per liter of solvent.

Having thus broadly described the present invention

25 and a preferred and most preferred embodiment thereof, it is
believed that the same will become even more apparent by
reference to the following examples. It will be appreciated,
however, that the examples are presented solely for purposes
of illustration and should not be construed as limiting the

30 invertion. All of the examples were completed either under
an argon blanket by standard Schlenk techniques or under a
helium blanket in a Vacuum Atmospheres HE43-2 drybox. The
solvents used in the experiments were rigorously dried under
nitrogen by standard techniques. The boron and metallocene

35 reagents used in the examples were either purchased or
prepared following published techniques. The zwitterionic
complexes (Examples 1, 4, 10 and 22) were characterized by
solid state 13C NMR spectroscopy and solution 1H NMR

spectroscopy. The tetra(p- thylphenyl)boron zwitterionic derivativ isolated in Example 10 was further characterized by single crystal x-ray crystallography.

EXAMPLE 1

In this example, a stable, isolable polymerization catalyst was prepared by combining 0.65 g of tri(n-buty1)ammonium tetra(phenyl)boron with 0.50 g of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The combination was accomplished by first suspending the tri(n-butyl)ammonium 10 tetra(phenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding the bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The combination was accomplished at room temperature and contacting between the two compounds was continued for 1 hour. After 1 hour, an insoluble orange precipitate separated from 15 solution leaving a clear mother liquor. The orange precipitate was isolated by filteration, washed three times with 20 ml of pentane and dried in-vacuo. 0.75 g of the orange precipitate was recovered. A portion of this product was analyzed and it was found to contain a single organometallic 20 compound having the following general formula:

wherein Me is a methyl radical.

EXAMPLE 2

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In this example, ethylene was polymerized by adding 0.05 g of the orange precipitate recovered in Example 1 to 20 ml of toluene at room temperature in a 100 ml side armed flask and then adding excess ethylene at atmospheric pressure while maintaining vigorous agitation. An immediate exotherm 30 was detected and the formation of polyethylene observed as the addition of ethylene continued.

EXAMPLE 3

In this example, ethylene was polymerized by first suspending 0.05 g of the orange precipitate prepared in 35 Example 1 to 20 ml of chlorobenzene in a 100 ml side armed

flask and then adding excess ethylene at atmospheric pressure while maintaining agitation. An immediate exotherm was detected and the formation of p lyethylene was observed as the addition of ethylene continued.

5 EXAMPLE 4

In this example, an active, isolable olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by first suspending 0.75 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-tolyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.52 g of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)-zirconium dimethyl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After 1 hour, an insolable orange precipitate separated from solution. The orange precipitate was isolated by filtration, washed three times with 20 ml of pentane and dried in-vacuo. 0.55 g of the orange precipitate were recovered. The orange precipitate was analyzed and found to contain an organometallic compound having the following structure:

20

wherein Me is a methyl radical.

EXAMPLE 5

In this example, ethylene was polymerized at atmospheric pressure by passing ethylene into a 20 ml sample of crude reaction mixture from Example 4 in a 100 ml side armed flask. The ethylene was rapidly polymerized.

EXAMPLE 6

In this example, ethylene was polymerized at 40 psig by dissolving 0.02 g of the orange precipitate produced in 30 Example 4 in 100 ml of toluene in a Fisher-Porter glass pressure vessel, heating the solution to 80°C and then passing ethylene into said solution at 40 psig for 20 minutes. 2.2 g of polyethylene were obtained and the average molecular

weight of the polymer was 57,000. The polymer had a polydispersity of 2.5.

EXAMPLE 7

In this example, ethylene and acetylene were copolymerized by dissolving 0.05 g of the orange precipitate from
Example 4 in toluene and then adding 2 ml of purified acetylene at atmospheric pressure in an NMR tube. An immediate
color change from orange to yellow was noted. After five
minutes, 5 ml of ethylene at atmospheric pressure were added
to this mixture and an immediate exotherm was observed as was
polymer formation.

EXAMPLE 8

In this example, an active isolable olefin polymerization catalyst was produced by first suspending 0.56 g of
tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(o-tolyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene
and then adding 0.25 g of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium
dimethyl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1
hour. After 1 hour an insoluble yellow precipitate separated
from an orange solution. The yellow precipitate was isolated
by filtration, washed three times with 20 ml of pentane and
dried in-vacuo. 0.26 g of the yellow precipitate were
recovered.

EXAMPLE 9

In this example, excess ethylene was added at atmospheric pressure to a portion of the orange mother liquor from
Example 8 in a 100 ml side armed flask and polyethylene
formed. Ethylene was also contacted with a portion of the
yellow precipitate, which precipitate was suspended in
toluene in a 50 ml side armed flask and again polyethylene

was formed.

EXAMPLE 10

In this example, an active, isolable olefin polymerization catalyst was produced by first suspending 1.20 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-ethylphenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.76 g of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After 1 hour, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness. The crude orange solid, which was

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produced, was recrystallized from hot toluene to give 1.0 g of orange-red crystals. A portion of this product was analyz d and confirmed to be an organometallic compound having th following structure:

wherein Me is a methyl radical.

EXAMPLE 11

In this example, ethylene was polymerized by dissolving 0.10 g of the orange-red crystals from Example 10 in toluene and then placing the solution in a steel autoclave under nitrogen pressure. Ethylene at 100 psig was then introduced into the autoclave and the autoclave heated to 80°C with agitation. After 10 minutes, the reactor was vented to atmospheric pressure and opened. The yield of linear polyethylene was 27 g having a weight average molecular weight of about 52,000.

EXAMPLE 12

In this example, an active, isolable olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by first suspending 0.78 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(m,m-dimethylphenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.50 g of bis(pentamethyl-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After 1 hour, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness. The resulting crude red-brown solid was washed with 30 ml of pentane and dried in-vacuo to yield 0.56 g of a toluene soluble brown solid. Both the brown solid and the crude reaction mixture were dissolved in 40 ml of toluene in a 100 ml side armed flask and were observed to polymerize ethylene at atmospheric pressure.

EXAMPLE 13

In this xampl, two active, isolabl of fin polymerization catalysts wer prepared by first dissolving 0.78 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(o,p-dimethylph nyl)boron in 30 ml of toluene and 15 ml of pentane. The solution was then cooled to -30°C and 0.50 g of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl were added. The mixture was warmed to room temperature with agitation and held for 4 hours. A yellow precipitate was separated from a purple reaction mixture by filtration. The yellow precipitate was dried in-vacuo to give 0.62 g of product. After separation of the yellow precipitate, the purple mother liquor was evaporated to dryness to give 0.32 g of a purple glassy solid. The yellow and purple products polymerized ethylene in deuterotoluene in NMR tubes.

EXAMPLE 14

In this example, an olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by combining 0.06 g of bis(1,3-bistrimethyl-silylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, 0.05 g of

N.N-dimethylanilinium tetra(phenyl)boron and 1 ml of deutero-benzene in an NMR tube and allowing the components to react. The NMR spectrum showed complete loss of starting materials after 20 minutes at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then divided into two portions, diluted with 20 ml

toluene, and placed in 50 ml side armed flasks. Ethylene was added to one portion and propylene to the other. Rapid polymerization was observed in both cases.

EXAMPLE 15

In this example, an active olefin polymerization

30 catalyst was prepared by first suspending 0.87 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-tolyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and
then adding 0.50 g of (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The reaction was stirred at
room temperature for 18 hours to give a blue-green homogenous
35 solution. The reaction mixture was dried in-vacuo, washed
with 30 ml of pentane, and then redissolved in 100 ml of
toluene. The resulting blue-green solution was filtered into
a glass pressure vessel and stirred under 1.5 atmospheres of

ethylene. An immediat ex therm and polymer formation was observed upon exposure of ethylene. The yield of polythylene was 4.5 g after 15 minutes.

In this example, an olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by first suspending 0.1 g of tri(n-buty1)ammonium tetra(p-ethylpheny1)boron in 5 ml of d6-benzene and then adding 0.05 g of (pentamethylcyclopentadieny1)(cyclopentadieny1)zirconium dimethyl. The reaction was complete after 30 minutes. The green solution was then dried in-vacuo to give a green glassy solid. The crude green product was extracted with 20 ml of toluene. In separate experiments, the toluene extract was exposed to ethylene, to propylene and to a mixture of ethylene and propylene. In each case significant polymerization activity was observed. EXAMPLE 17

In this example, an active olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by first suspending 0.22 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.10 g of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The reaction vessel was capped with a rubber septum and stirred at room temperature. After 10 minutes the reaction mixture (now yellow and homogeneous) was pressurized with 1.5 atmospheres of ethylene and stirred vigorously. Rapid polymerization of ethylene was observed causing a significant increase in the reaction temperature (from room temperature to at least 80°C) during the first 5 minutes of polymerization. After 15 minutes, the reaction vessel was vented and methanol was added to kill the still active catalyst. The yield of linear polyethylene was 3.7 g. EXAMPLE 18

In this example, an active olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by suspending 0.34 g of tri(n-butyl)-ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.13 g of (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) (cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The reaction vessel was capped with a rubber septum and stirred at room temperature. After 10 minutes the reaction mixture (a yellow

solution above an insoluble orange oil) was pr ssurized with 1.5 atmospheres of thylene and stirred vigorously. Rapid polymerization of ethylene was obs rved causing a significant increase in the reaction t mperature (from room temperature to at least 80°C) during the first minutes of polymerization. After 10 minutes, the reaction vessel was vented and methanol was added to kill the still active catalyst. The yield of linear polyethylene was 3.7 g.

EXAMPLE 19

10 In this example, an active olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by combining 0.18 g of tri(n-buty1)ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.12 g of bis[1,3-bis(trimethylsily1)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dimethyl. The reaction vessel was 15 capped with a rubber septum and stirred at room temperature. After 10 minutes the reaction mixture (a yellow solution above an insoluble yellow oil) was pressurized with 1.5 atmospheres of ethylene and stirred vigorously. Rapid polymerization of ethylene was observed causing a significant 20 increase in the reaction temperature (from room temperature to at least 80°C) during the first minutes of polymerization. After 10 minutes the reaction vessel was vented and methanol was added to kill the still active catalyst. The yield of linear polyethylene was 2.1 g.

25 EXAMPLE 20

In this example, an active olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by suspending 0.34 g of tri(n-butyl)-ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 0.10 g of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium 30 dimethyl. The reaction vessel was capped with a rubber septum and stirred at room temperature. After 10 minutes the reaction mixture (a yellow solution above an insoluble orange oil) was pressurized with 1.5 atmospheres of ethylene and stirred vigorously. Rapid polymerization of ethylene was observed causing a significant increase in the reaction temperature (from room temperature to at least 80°C) during the first minutes of polymerization. After 10 minutes the reaction vessel was vented and methanol was added to

deactivate the still active catalyst. The yi ld of linear polyethylene was 3.7 g.

EXAMPLE 21

In this xample, an active olefin polym rization

5 catalyst was prepared by combining 0.12 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonion tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron and 0.04 g of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl in 100 ml of toluene in
a 250 ml flask. The flask was capped with a rubber septum
and stirred at 60°C for 3 minutes. Ethylene at 1.5 atmospheres and 3 ml of 1-hexene were then added to the flask.
After 20 minutes, the flask was vented and methanol was added
to deactivate the still active catalyst. The white polymeric
product was collected by filteration and dried in-vacuo to
yield 8.0 g of a hexene-ethylene copolymer. The melting
15 point of the copolymer was 125°C.

EXAMPLE 22

In this example, an active, isolable olefin polymerization catalyst was prepared by first suspending 1.30 g of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-tolyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene and then adding 1.00 g of bis(ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After 1 hour, an insolable orange precipitate separated from solution. The orange precipitate was isolated by filteration, washed three times with 20 ml of pentane and dried in-vacuo. 0.55 g of the orange precipitate were recovered. The orange precipitate was analyzed and found to contain an organometallic compound having the following structure:

wherein Et is an ethyl radical and Me is a methyl radical.

EXAMPLE 23

In this xample, 0.05 g of the orange precipitate produced in Example 22 was dissolved in 2 ml of deuterotoluene and placed in a 5 mm NMR tube and capped with a 5 rubber septum. Ethylene (2 ml at 1 atm) was added via syringe and immediately polymerized.

EXAMPLE 24

In this example, ethylene and 1-butene were copolymerized in a hexane diluent by adding under a nitrogen 10 atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen and containing 400 ml of dry oxygenfree hexane, 40 ml of a toluene solution containing 4 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl and 12 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. 15 1-butene (200 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was further pressurized with 65 psig of ethylene. The autoclave was stirred and heated for 7 minutes at 60°. The reactor was vented and cooled and the contents dried. The yield of copolymer isolated was 9.2 g. The weight-average molecular 20 weight of the polymer was 108,000 and the molecular weight distribution was 1.97. A compositional distribution analysis indicated a breadth index of 88%.

EXAMPLE 25

In this example, ethylene and 1-butene were copoly-25 merized in a hexane diluent by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen and containing 400 ml of dry, oxygen-free hexane, 40 ml of a toluene solution containing 4 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl and 12 mg of tri-30 (n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. 1-butene (200 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was further pressurized with 65 psig of ethylene. The autoclave was stirred and heated at 50° for 10 minutes. The autoclave was vented and cooled and the contents dried. The yield of copolymer 35 isolated was 7.1 g. The weight-average molecular weight of the polymer was 92,000 with a molecular weight distribution of 1.88. Analysis by ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy indicated a reactivity ratio (r1r2) of 0.145.

EXAMPLE 26

In this example, ethylene and 1-butene were copolymerized in a hexane diluent by adding und r a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed 5 with nitrogen and containing 400 ml of dry, oxygen-free hexane. 25 ml of a toluene solution containing 9 mg of bis[(t-butyl)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dimethyl and 2.9 mg of N.N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. 1-butene (100 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was 10 further pressurized with 65 psig of ethylene. The autoclave was stirred and heated at 50° for 1 hour. The autoclave was vented and cooled and the contents dried. The yield of copolymer isolated was 27.2 g. The weight-average molecular weight of the polymer was 23,000 with a molecular weight 15 distribution of 1.8. Analysis of the composition distribution indicated a median comonomer content of 6.3 mole% and a breadth index of 81%.

EXAMPLE 27

In this example, a stirred 100 ml steel autoclave 20 reaction vessel which was equipped to perform Ziegler-Natta polymerization reactions at pressures up to 2500 bar and temperatures up to 300° was used. The temperature of the cleaned reactor containing ethylene at low pressure was equilibrated at the desired reaction temperature of 160°. 25 The catalyst solution was prepared by dissolving 259 mg of a zwitterionic catalyst (prepared from bis(ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl and tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-ethylphenyl)boron in 10.0 ml of distilled toluene under nitrogen. A 0.4 ml portion of this catalyst solution - 30 was transferred by low-pressure nitrogen into a constantvolume injection tube, which was held at 25°. Ethylene was pressured into the autoclave at a total pressure of 1500 bar. The reactor contents were stirred at 1000 rpm for 1 minute at which time the catalyst solution was rapidly injected into 35 the stirring reactor with excess pressure. The temperature and pressure changes were recorded continuously for 120 seconds at which time the contents were rapidly vented, yielding the polymer. The reactor was washed with xylene to

collect any polymer remaining insid and all polymer was dried in vacuo. The yield of polyethyl n isolated was 0.56 g. This polymer had a weight-average molecular weight of 21,900, a mol cular weight distribution of 10.6 and a 5 density of 0.965 g/ml.

EXAMPLE 28

In this example, ethylene was polymerized by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously purged with nitrogen and containing 400 ml 10 of dry, oxygen-free hexane, first a solution of 15 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl in 30 ml of toluene, then, after 5 minutes, a toluene solution (50 ml) containing 12 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 30 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(perfluorophenyl)boron. The 15 autoclave was pressured with 90 psig of ethylene and stirred at 60°. After 1 hour, the autoclave was vented and opened. The yield of linear polyethylene isolated was 73.8 g. This material had a weight-average molecular weight of 1,100,000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1.78.

20 EXAMPLE 29

In this example, ethylene and propylene were copolymerized in a hexane diluent by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave previously flushed with nitrogen and containing 400 ml of dry, oxygen-25 free hexane, first a solution of 15 mg bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl in 25 ml of toluene, stirring for 5 minutes,. then 50 ml of a toluene solution containing 17 mg bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 42 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. Propylene 30 (200 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was further pressured with an additional 50 psig of ethylene. The autoclave was stirred at 60° for 15 minutes. The reactor was vented and opened and the residual hexane in the contents evaporated under a stream of air. The yield of copolymer 35 isolated was 61.0 g. This copolymer, which was 35.1 wt% ethylene, had a weight-average molecular weight of 103,000 and a molecular weight distribution of 2.3. Analysis by

13C NMR spectroscopy indicat d a statistically random copolymer.

EXAMPLE 30

In this xample, thylene and propylen were

5 copolymerized in bulk propylene by adding under a nitrogen
atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave preeviously
flushed with nitrogen 50 ml of a toluene solution containing
36 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 11 mg of
N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron.

10 Propylene (400 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was
further pressurized with 120 psig of ethylene. After
stirring for 15 minutes at 50°, the reactor was vented and
opened and the contents dried under a stream of air. The
yield of copolymer isolated was 52.6 g. The copolymer, which
15 was 38.1 wt% ethylene, had a weight-average molecular weight
of 603,000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1.93.

EXAMPLE 31

In this example, ethylene and 1-butene were copolymerized in a hexane diluent by adding under a nitrogen atmos-20 phere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen and containing 400 ml of dry, oxygen-free hexane, first a 30 ml of a toluene solution containing 15 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl hafnium dimethyl, then after stirring for 5 minutes, 30 ml of a toluene solution containing 12 mg 25 of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 30 mg of tri-(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. 1-butene (50 ml) was added to the autoclave, which was further pressurized with 65 psig of ethylene. The autoclave was stirred and heated to 50° for 1 hour. The reactor was vented and " 30 opened and the contents dried in a vacuum oven. The yield of copolymer isolated was 78.7 g. This copolymer, which was 62.6 wt% ethylene, had a weight-average molecular weight of 105,000 and a molecular weight distribution of 4.94. Analysis by 13C MMR spectroscopy indicated a reactivity 35 ratio (r₁r₂) of 0.153.

EXAMPLE 32

In this example, ethylene, propylene, and 1-butene were copolymerized in a hexane diluent by adding under a

40 88/05793 oreviously flushed with nitrooen and containing foo al COUTAINING 19 DE OF BLACKCIODEN TAGES OF ALTONOMY JABENIUM ALDER OF ALTONOMY JABENIUM ALTONOMY ALTONOMY JABENIUM ALTONOM and 15 mg of tri(n-buty1) amountum tetrakis(Dentafinorophen)

containing 19 mg of bis(Cyclopentagieny1) has econticu

containing 19 mg of bis(cyclopentagieny1) has econticu

containing tetrakis(Dentafinorophen) and 15 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl
boron. 1-butene (50 ml) and propylene (25 ml) were edded to and 15 ag of tri(n-buty1) accont wa tetrakia (pentafivorophenyi) the autoclave, which was further pressurized with 60 psig of the autoclave was stirred at 50. for 45 athutes. PCT/US&8/00223 the autoclave. which was further pressurized with 60 psig of order at almutes. The contents were dried under a ethylene. The stream of air. The vield of isolated terpolymer was income with the contents at 50. for 45 minute terpolymer was income with the contents at 50. for 45 minute was income with the contents at 50. then cooled and vented.

The weight average molecular weight of the polymer was 17.9 g. The weight air. The Yield of isolated tempolymer was 17 and the molecular weight of the Polymer was 17 and the molecular weight of the Polymer was 18 and the molecular weight of the Polymer was 18 and the molecular weight of the Polymer was 18 and the molecular weight of the Polymer was 18 and the molecular weight of the polymer was 18 and the molecular weight of the molecular weight The weight average colecular weight of the Polymer was 1.89.

Analysis by 13c Ann Spectroscopy indicated that the Polymer was 1.89. Analysis and the colecular weight distribution was 1.89.

Contained 62.9 Moles ethylene. 25.8 Coles that the Propylene, end Analysis by 13c him spectroscopy indicated that the propylene, and 11.3 moles butens. a uttrogen appropriated in a hexane different by adding under autociave, and i where autociave, and i where in this example, ethylene, propylene, and 1.4-hexa-Drevtonally tinayed with untroded and containing of of adding the following a space of the following previously flushed with nitrogen and containing door all of freshly distilled Dreviously flushed with nitrogen and containing. 400 ml or a catalyst solution containing containing 1.4. hexadiene, then 50 al of a catalyat asolution containing disethil and 16 mg W. W. quantituting tetrakta(Dertinocopyeuhilang 19 mg

A. W. quantituting tetrakta(Dertinocopyeuhilang 19 mg

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Solated terpolymer was 30.7 g. The weight average molecular The Contents were dried under a stream of air.

Polymer was 30.7 g. The weight. The yield of and the colecular weight Analysis by 13C Angr soctroscopy

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24.8 moles that the polymer contained 70.5 moles ectroscopy and 4.7 moles 1.4-heradies ethylene. EXAMPLE 34 Propylene, and 4.7 moles 1.4-heradies eth EXAMPLE 34 Dhere to a 1 L stainless-steel sutcollave, previously flushed

one of the stainless of the bhere to a 1 L ataining 400 ml of dry, oxygen-free and containing 400 ml of dry, oxygen-free and containing 400 ml or dry, oxygen-free and containing 400 ml or dry, oxygen-free and containing 400 ml or dry, oxygen-free In this example, ethylene and 1-hexene were copolywith ultrogen and containing 400 at octave, previously tin phere to a 1 r statulese steel autoclave.

hexane, first 30 ml of toluene solution containing 15 mg of bis(cyclop ntadienyl)hafnium dimethyl, then, after 5 minutes, 100 ml of alumina-filtered and degassed 1-hexene and then 50 ml of a toluen solution containing 12 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 30 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. The autoclave was pressurized with 65 psig of ethylene, stirred and heated at 50° for 1 hour, then cooled and vented. The contents were dried in a vacuum oven. The yield of isolated copolymer was 10 54.7 g. The copolymer, which was 46 wt% ethylene, had a weight-average molecular weight of 138,000 and a molecular weight distribution of 3.08. Analysis by ¹³C NMR spectroscopy indicated a reactivity ratio (r1r2) of 0.262.

15 EXAMPLE 35

In this example, propylene was polymerized in a hexane diluent by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen and containing 200 ml of dry, oxygen-free hexane, 50 ml of a 20 toluene solution containing 72 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)-hafnium dimethyl and 22 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. Propylene (200 ml) was added and the autoclave was stirred at 40° for 65 minutes. The autoclave was cooled and vented and the contents dried in a vacuum oven. The yield of atactic polypropylene was 37.7 g. The weight-average molecular weight of this polymer was 92,000 and the molecular weight distribution was 1.54. EXAMPLE 36

In this experiment, propylene was polymerized in

30 bulk propylene by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L
stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen,
50 ml of a toluene solution containing 77 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl and 22 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. Propylene
35 (400 ml) was added and the autoclave stirred at 40° for
90 minutes. The autoclave was cooled and vented and the
contents dried in a vacuum oven. The yield of atactic polypropylene isolated was 58.7 g. The weight-average molecular

weight of this polymer was 191,000 and the molecular weight distribution was 1.60.

EXAMPLE 37

In this example, pr pyl ne was polymerized in bulk

5 propylene by washing 72 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium
dimethyl and 22 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron into a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave,
previously flushed with nitrogen, with 500 ml of propylene.
The autoclave was stirred at 40° for 90 minutes and at 50°

10 for another 30 minutes, then cooled and vented. 2.3 g of
atactic polypropylene were isolated.

EXAMPLE 38

In this example, ethylene was polymerized by reacting 55 mg of bis(trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl)hafnium dimethyl with 80 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(penta-fluorophenyl boron in 5 ml of toluene in a serum-capped vial. On passing ethylene through the solution for 15 seconds, polymer formed as the mixture grew hot. The vial was opened and the contents diluted with acetone, filtered, 20 washed, and dried. The yield of polyethylene was 0.26 g. EXAMPLE 39

In this example, propylene was polymerized in bulk propylene by adding under a nitrogen atmosphere to a 1 L stainless-steel autoclave, previously flushed with nitrogen, 25 ml of a toluene solution containing 10 mg of rac-dimethylsilyl bis(indenyl)hafnium dimethyl and 5 mg of N,N-dimethyl-anilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron. Propylene (500 ml) was added and the autoclave stirred at 40° for 4.5 hours. The autoclave was cooled and vented and the contents dried in a vacuum oven. The yield of isotactic polypropylene isolated was 78.5 g. The weight-average molecular weight of this polymer was 555,000 and the molecular weight distribution was 1.86. The polymer had a melting point of 139°C. Analysis by ¹³C NMR spectroscopy indicated that the polymer was about 95% isotactic.

EXAMPLE 40

In this example, an active ethylene polymerization catalyst was prepared by suspending 40 mg of N,N-dimethyl-

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anilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)b ron and 17 mg of 1-bis(cyclopentadienyl)zircona-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane in 10 ml of toluen in a s ptum-capped round bottom d flask. Passage of ethylene through the solution for 30 seconds 5 caused the solution to become hot as polymer precipitated. The flask was opened and the contents diluted with acetone. The polymer was filtered off, washed with acetone, and dried in vacuo. The yield of polymer isolated was 0.15 g. EXAMPLE 41

In this example, an active ethylene polymerization catalyst was prepared by suspending 36 mg of 1-bis(cyclopentadienyl)titana-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane and 80 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 20 ml of toluene in a serum-capped round-bottomed flask. The solution 15 darkened when ethylene was passed through it. After 5 minutes, the flask was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The polymer was filtered off, washed with ethanol, and dried. The yield of polyethylene isolated was 0.51 g. EXAMPLE 42

In this example, an active ethylene polymerization 20 catalyst was prepared by suspending 29 mg of (pentamethyl cyclopentadienyl)(tetramethyl-etal-cyclopentadienyl)zirconium phenyl and 43 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 25 ml of toluene in a serum-capped round-25 bottomed flask. On passing ethylene through the solution, polymer formed almost instantly. After 5 minutes, the flask was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The polymer was filtered off, washed with acetone, and dried. The yield of polyethylene isolated was 0.49 g.

In this example, an active ethylene polymerization catalyst was prepared by suspending 34 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium(2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene) and 85 mg of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 35 50 ml of toluene in a serum-capped bottle. On introducing ethylene, the solution grew warm instantly as polymer precipitated. After 5 minutes the bottle was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The polymer formed was

filtered off, washed with thanol, and dri d. The yield of polymer isolated was 1.06 g.

EXAMPLE 44

In this example, ethylen was polymerized by 5 reacting 20 mg of 1-bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafna-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane and 39 mg of N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 20 ml of toluene in a serumcapped round-bottomed flask. On passing ethylene through the solution, polymer precipitated as the solution grew warm. 10 After 1 minute, the flask was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The polymer was filtered off, washed with ethanol, and dried. The yield of polyethylene isolated was 0.263 g.

EXAMPLE 45

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In this example, ethylene was polymerized by reacting 21 mg of bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium(2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene) and 41 mg of tri(n-buty1)ammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene in a serumcapped bottle. On passing ethylene through the solution, 20 polymer precipitated within seconds. After 10 minutes, the bottle was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The solid polymer was filtered off, washed with acetone, and dried. The yield of polyethylene isolated was 0.93 g. EXAMPLE 46

In this example, ethylene was polymerized by reacting 53 mg of (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(tetramethyl- . cyclopentadienylmethylene)hafnium benzyl and 75 mg of N, Ndimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)boron in 50 ml of toluene in a serum-capped bottle. Ethylene was passed 30 through the solution for 10 minutes. The bottle was opened and the contents diluted with ethanol. The polymer was filtered off, washed with acetone, and dried. The yield of polyethylene isolated was 0.65 g.

While the present invention has been described and 35 illustrated by reference to particular embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that the same lends itself to variations not necessarily illustrated herein. For this reason, then, reference

should be mad solly to the appended claims for purposes of determining the true scop of the present invention.

CLAIMS:

- 1. Hethod for preparing a catalyst comprising the steps of:
- (a) Combining, in a suitable solvent or diluent, at least one first compound consisting of a bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound containing at least one substituent capable of reacting with a proton, said metal being selected from the group consisting of titanium, zirconium and hafnium and at least one second compound comprising a cation capable of donating a proton and an anion which is a single coordination complex comprising a plurality of lipophilic radicals covalently coordinated to and shielding a central charge-bearing metal or metalloid atom, which anion is bulky, labile and capable of stabilizing the metal cation formed as a result of the reaction between the two compounds;
- (b) Maintaining the contacting in step (a) for a sufficient period of time to permit the proton provided by the cation of said second compound to react with said substituent contained in said bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound; and
- (c) Recovering an active catalyst as a direct product or as a decomposition product of one or more of said direct products from step (b).
- Method according to Claim 1 wherein said bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound may be represented by the following general formulae:

- 3. (A-Cp)ML and/or
- 4. (Cp*)(CpR)MX)

Wherein:

M is a metal selected from the group consisting of titanium, zirconium and hafnium; (A-Cp) is either (Cp)(Cp*) or Cp-A'-Cp* and Cp and Cp* are the same or different substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals;

A' is a covalent bridging group;
L is an olefin, diolefin or aryne ligand;

X₁ and X₂ are, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydride radicals, hydrocarbyl radicals, substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, organometalloid radicals and the like;

X'₁ and X'₂ are joined and bound to the metal atom to form a metallacycle, in which the metal atom, X'₁ and X'₂ form a hydrocarbocyclic ring containing from about 3 to about 20 carbon atoms; and
R is a substituent on one of the cyclopentadienyl radicals

3. Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein said second compound may be represented by the following general formula: $[(L^{\bullet}-H)^{+}]_{d} [(H^{\bullet})^{m+}Q_{1}Q_{2}\dots Q_{n}]^{d-}$

which is also bound to the metal atom.

Wherein:

L' is a neutral Lewis base; H is a hydrogen atom: [L'-H] is a Bronsted acid; M' is a metal or metalloid selected from the Groups subtended by Groups V-B to V-A of the Periodic Table of the Elements; ie., groups V-B, VI-B, VII-B, VIII, I-B, II-B, III-A, IV-A and V-A; Q_1 to Q_n are selected, independently, from the group consisting of hydride radicals, dialkylamido radicals, alkoxide and aryloxide radicals, hydrocarbyl and substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals and organometalloid radicals and any one, but not more than one, of Q_1 to Q_n may be a halide radical - the remaining Q_1 to Q_n being, independently, selected from the foregoing radicals; m is an integer from 1 to 7; n is an integer from 2 to 8; and n - m = d.

4. Method according to any of the preceding claims wherein said second compound may be represented by the general formula:

[L'-H] + [BAr, Ar, X, X,] -

Wherein:

L' is a neutral Lewis base;

H is a hydrogen atom;

[L'-H]* is a Bronsted acid;

B is boron in a valence state of 3;

Ar₁ and Ar₂ are the same or different aromatic or substituted-aromatic hydrocarbon radicals which radicals may be linked to each other through a stable bridging group; and X₃ and X₄ are, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydride radicals, halide radicals and hydrocarbyl and substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, organometalloid radicals and the like.

- 5. Method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the first compound is of the general formula 1 in Claim 2 and wherein said second compound is a trisubstituted ammonium salt of an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic boron compound, with said first compound being optionally a bis(cyclopentadienyl)metal compound containing two, independently, substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals and two lower alkyl substituents or two hydrides, the metal being preferably zirconium or hafnium.
- 6. Method of Claim 5 wherein said second compound is a tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(phenyl)boron, in which case preferably said first compound is a bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl; or said second compound is N.N-dimethylanilinium tetra-(phenyl)boron, in which case said first compound is preferably a bis[1.3-bis(trimethylsilyl)cyclopentadienyl]zirconium dimethyl.
- 7. Method according to Claim 5 wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of tri(n-butyl)-ammonium tetra(p-tolyl)boron, tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(o-tolyl)-boron, tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(m,m-dimethylphenyl)boron and

tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(o,m-dimethylphenyl)boron, in which case preferably said first compound is a bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl; or wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(p-tolyl)boron and tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra (p-ethylphenyl)boron, in which case preferably said first compound is selected from the group consisting of bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl, and (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium dimethyl; or wherein said second compound is selected from the Group consisting of tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra-(pentafluorophenyl)boron and N.N-dimethylanilinium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron.

- 8. Method according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the first compound is of the general formula 2 in Claim 2 and wherein said second compound is a trisubstituted ammonium salt of a tetra-(substituted-aromatic)boron compound, preferably N,N-dimethylani-linium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron, in which case preferably said first compound is selected from the group consisting of 1-bis-(cyclopentadienyl)titana-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane, 1-bis(cyclopentadienyl)zircona-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane and 1-bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafna-3-dimethylsilacyclobutane.
- 9. Method according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the first compound is of the general formula 3 in Claim 2 and wherein said second compound is a trisubstituted ammonium sait of a tetra-(substituted-aromatic)boron compound, preferably tri(n-butyl)-ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron, in which case preferably said first compound is selected from the group consisting of bis(cyclopentadienyl)zirconium(2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene) and bis(cyclopentadienyl)hafnium(2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene).
- 10. Method according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the first compound is of the general formula 4 in Claim 2 and wherein said second compound is a trisubstituted ammonium salt of a tetra-(substituted-aromatic)boron compound, said first compound being preferably selected from the group consisting of (pentamethylcyclo-

pentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienylmethylene)zirconium phenyl and (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl-methylene)hafnium benzyl in which case said second compound is preferably tri(n-butyl)ammonium tetra(pentafluorophenyl)boron or a N.N-dimethylanilinium tetra(phenyl)boron compound.

- 11. Method for polymerizing an α -olefin, diolefin and/or an acetylenically unsaturated monomer containing from 2 to about 18 carbon atoms and/or an acetylenically unsaturated compound containing from 2 to about 18 carbon atoms either alone or in combination with each other or with other monomers comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting an olefin, diolefin and/or an acetylenically unsaturated compound containing from 2 to about 18 carbon atoms either alone or in combination with each other or with other monomers in a suitable carrier, solvent or diluent with a catalyst prepared previously or in situ during polymerization by a method according to any of the preceding claims:
- (b) continuing the contacting of step (a) for a sufficient period of time to polymerize at least a portion of the monomer or monomers:
 - (c) recovering a polymer product.
- 12. Catalyst prepared by a method according to any of claims 1 to 10.
- 13. A polymer comprising a monomer selected from the group consisting of α -olefins, diolefins, acetylenically unsaturated monomers and mixtures there prepared with a catalyst according to Claim 12.

14. Composition of matter containing an organometallic compound having the following general structural formula: ~

wherein:

Cp* is a peralkyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl radical wherein each of said alkyl substitutions may be the same or a different C_1 - C_{20} alkyl radical;

B is boron;

Zr is zirconium;

Ph' is a phenyl or alkyl-substituted phenyl radical and each of the 3 Ph's may be the same or different and the alkyl substitutions may be C_1-C_{14} ; and R is hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to about 14 carbon atoms.

15. Composition of matter according to Claim 14 having the following general structural formula:

wherein Cp* is a (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) radical;

wherein Cp* is a (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) radical;

wherein Cp* is a (pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) radical; or

wherein Cp* is a (ethyltetramethylcyclopentadienyl) radical.

16. As a composition of matter, an organometallic compound represented by one of the following general formulae:

1.
$$\{[(A-C_p)HX_1]\}_d[(M')^{m+Q_1Q_2...Q_n}]^{d-1}$$

2.
$$\{[(A-Cp)MX_1L']\}_d[(M')^{m+}Q_1Q_2...Q_n]^{d-}$$

Wherein:

M is a metal selected from the Group consisting of titanium, zirconium, and hafnium;

(A-Cp) is either (Cp)(Cp*) or Cp-A'-Cp* and Cp and Cp* are the same or different substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl radicals:

A' is a covalent bridging group;

X₁ is selected from the group consisting of hydride radicals, hydrocarbyl radicals; substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, organometalloid radicals and the like;

L' is a neutral Lewis base;

M' is a metal or metalloid selected from the Groups encompassed by Groups V-B to VI-A of the Periodic Table of the Elements; ie., Groups V-B, VI-B, VII-B, VIII, I-B, III-B, III-A, IV-A, and V-A; Q_1 to Q_n are selected, independently, from the Group consisting of hydride radicals, dialkylamido radicals, alkoxide and aryloxide radicals, hydrocarbyl and substituted-hydrocarbyl radicals, and organometalloid radicals and any one, but not more than one, of the Q_1 to Q_n may be a halide radical – the remaining Q_1 to Q_n being, independently, selected from the foregoing radicals; m is an integer from 1 to 7; n is an integer from 2 to 8; and Q_n = Q_n

17. The composition of matter of Claim 16 wherein said . anion may be represented by the following general formula:

$[BAr_1Ar_2X_3X_4]^T$

Wherein:

18. The composition of matter of Claim 17 wherein said anion is chosen from the group consisting of unsubstituted tetra-(aromatic)boron anions and substituted tetra(aromatic)boron anions.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 88/00223

| I. CLASSI | FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (It several classification symbols apply, matters by to international Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC | |
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| | | = 17/00 |
| IPC : C | : 08 F 4/64; C 08 F 4/76; C 08 F 10/00; C 07 | |
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